



USC
UNIVERSITY
HOSPITAL
Tenet HealthSystem

October 17, 1997

Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
Health Policy and Planning Division
Attention: Andra Zach
1600 9th Street, Room 350
Sacramento, CA 95814


Dear Ms. Zach,

USC University Hospital (USCUH), a 284-bed research, referral, and tertiary care teaching hospital, opened May 20, 1991, and was licensed for cardiovascular surgery in September, 1991. The data collection period for the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development *Report on Heart Attack* included patients admitted with acute myocardial infarction (heart attack) from January 1, 1991, through, December 1, 1993. USCUH was open and licensed for cardiovascular surgery for two years and four months rather than the full three years of the data collection period. In addition, as predicted, the hospital census at opening was initially low, as programs were still being developed.

Patients with acute onset of chest pain are taken to their nearest emergency department. Of note, USCUH does not provide emergency services; therefore, initial admissions for acute myocardial infarction are rare. USCUH does receive patients from other acute care hospitals for revascularization after myocardial infarction. These patients' outcomes were linked to the original admitting hospital, not to USCUH.

As a result of the referral nature of our business, a shortened data collection period, and the low census on opening, only six cases met inclusion criteria for analysis for the *Report on Heart Attack*. Due to the small number of cases evaluated, although no deaths occurred, these results were not statistically significant, meaning that it is very likely that the difference in USCUH observed and expected outcomes occurred by chance. Therefore, the data can't be used to accurately evaluate the care provided at USC University Hospital.

Sincerely,



Lee Domanico
Chief Executive Officer

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